

Covenant of Installation

Leader: There are different gifts,

PEOPLE: BUT IT IS THE SAME SPIRIT WHO GIVES THEM.

Leader: There are different ways of serving God,

PEOPLE: BUT IT IS THE SAME GOD WHO IS SERVED.

Leader: Each one is given a gift by the one Spirit,

PEOPLE: TO USE FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

Leader: Together we are the body of Christ,

PEOPLE: AND INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS WITH ONE ANOTHER.

With our common ministry, some members are chosen for particular work as ministers of the Word. They are ordained to a representative ministry and charged:

to lead in transmitting the Christian tradition from one generation to another;

to interpret the scriptures and proclaim the gospel of Christ; to administer the sacraments, serving to maintain a company of Christians in continuity with the life and faith of the apostles;

to serve God's people with pastoral care and to share in the strengthening of the church in its life and mission; and to act as pioneers and leaders in the church's reconciling work in the world.

We now come to the moment in which one of the church's ordained ministers, having been called with due seriousness to minister within this congregation, is to be officially received and installed to this office.

The new minister will stand

Mark Poindexter, as the minister called to provide spiritual leadership and pastoral care for this congregation, do you affirm your profession of faith in Jesus Christ?

I affirm my baptism and confession of faith that Jesus is the Christ, and give myself in full commitment to be Christ's disciple.

Do you reaffirm your ordination vows?

I reaffirm my ordination vows and promise faithfully to fulfill my ministry among this people through preaching and teaching the word of God; administering the sacraments of the church; ministering to those who are sick and troubled; sharing in leadership to strengthen the church's life; representing in a worthy manner what it means to live in faithful response to God's abiding grace.

The congregation will stand

Having called Mark to be your minister, do you renew your baptismal vow and commit yourself to support him with your prayers and shared responsibilities?

We reaffirm our baptism and our commitment to Jesus the Christ and our loyalty to Christ's church. We covenant to uphold our pastor with our prayers; to share his joys and sorrows; to attend his preaching and teaching of God's word; to welcome his pastoral care; and honor his leadership.

NEW MINISTER: Standing with you, I promise to be your pastor; and in the strength and grace of Jesus Christ, I covenant to serve this congregation in all faithfulness for the glory of God.

INSTALLATION PRAYER

Almighty God, give us the grace to do the work to which You have called us in Jesus Christ. Fill this community of faith by Your Spirit, that it may work together as one people to be the body of Christ in his reconciling ministry. Blend together the variety of gifts manifested within this congregation to strengthen its fellowship for service to the world. In solidarity with all Your people of every time and place we pray that Your will may be done here on earth through our worship, witness, and work. We ask this in the spirit of Jesus Christ, who gave his life that others may live. Amen.

DECLARATION

In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, we declare you properly installed as minister of this congregation; and we commend you to the grace of God in the discharge of all your duties as a minister of the gospel. May God count you worthy of your calling, and bring to fulfillment in you every good purpose and every act inspired by faith.

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